region has been created with a view to strengthening and expanding infrastructural net work. A Technology Mission on Horticulture is proposed to be set up boost horticulture production in the region.

(c) Farmers from N.E. States have been benefited directly and indirectly from the schemes/programmes. To achieve sound and sustainable agricultural development, efforts have been made in the areas of soil conservation, shifting cultivation and dryland farming in rainfed areas. During the last five years, under the scheme "Watershed development in shifting cultivation Areas", 1,38,646 ha. of land has been treated. Similarly, under the National. Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas Project, an area of 1,96,672 ha. has been developed. During the same period, 80 cooperative societies were sanctioned Rs.196.93 lakh for marketing and processing of horticultural crops.

Milk Production in Maharasthra

1552. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is the second largest producer of milk in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise *vis-a-vis* other States of the country; and

(c) steps, Government propose to take to further improve the milk production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUTULRE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Government of Maharashtra for increasing milk production, Central Government is implementing various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored schemes in the State. Some of the Schemes are as follows:

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Districts.

2. Extension Frozen Semen Technology
3. Progeny Testing Programme
4. National Bull Production Programme
5. Systematic Control of Livestock diseases of National Importance
6. Foot and Mouth disease
7. Animal Disease Surveillance
8. Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder development.

These schemes will help in improving milk production.

Cashew replantation

1553. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project for replanting and productivity improvement in cashew in Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 107.10 crores; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal entitled Replanting and Productivity Improvement of Cashew in Kerala with an outlay of Rs. 107.105 crores during November, 1997. The project proposal envisaged activities like area expansion, replanting, production and distribution of hybrid varieties of cashew, better management of young plantations, establishment of model gardens and training which were similar to the activities under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Cashew in India under which assistance was already being provided to the Government of Kerala. The State Government was informed accordingly in December 1997. An amount of Rs. 1.84 crores have been provided to the Government of Kerala during the first two years of the IX Plan. During 1999-2000, an allocation of Rs. 0.86 crores has been provided for Kerala.

Setting up of rural godowns

1554. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: